



michoud messenger

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Endeavour to Michoud: “Tanks” for Memories!

After numerous weather delays, Space Shuttle Endeavour, mated to the Shuttle Carrier Aircraft NASA905, lifted off at sunrise from Kennedy Space Center and began its cross-country journey to the California Science Center in Los Angeles.

Inside Michoud's gates at 8 a.m., Michoud employees and members of the local media began gathering in the parking lot of Bldg. 320 on Saturn Blvd. to watch the orbiter fly over the facility. Outside the gates, a large crowd of space enthusiasts gathered, hoping to catch a good view of the event. All eyes were anxiously watching the skies in order to catch the first glimpse of Endeavour. At 8:35 a.m.,



The morning of Sept 19, Endeavour, mated with the Shuttle Carrier Aircraft NASA905, flies east to west in clear skies over Michoud Assembly Facility.

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ET-94 Placed Into Horizontal Position

On Sept. 15, NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility employees performed the final critical lift of the Space Shuttle's External Tank Program. External Tank 94, or ET-94, the last remaining assembled external tank from the Space Shuttle Program, was being stored inside Michoud's historic Vertical Assembly Building, known as the VAB. Jacobs Technology's Manufacturing Support and Facility Operations Contract team lifted the large structure, standing in the vertical position, and gently placed it horizontally into its wheeled carrier. Lockheed Martin assembled ET-94 and provided documentation and support for the lift operation.



ET-94 was placed onto a wheeled carrier Sept. 15, clearing the way for SLS modifications to the building.

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Endeavour

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shouts from the crowd and fingers pointed to the east heralded Endeavour's arrival.

As Endeavour approached, the crowd's view was framed by Michoud's Vertical Assembly Building on the horizon. The gathering grew relatively quiet as employees raised cameras and cell phones to snap pictures of the historic moment. NASA905's flight path took it just a little to the north of the facility at an altitude of 1,500 feet, presenting Endeavour's port side to the assembled audience.

"This flight added a page to Michoud's history book. Endeavour's flight will long be remembered as a tribute to the workforce who dedicated so much of themselves to the External Tank Program," said Pat Whipps, NASA Resident Program Office manager. "I'm really proud of the accomplishments that Michoud and our employees have made in service of America's human spaceflight efforts."

It was not until Endeavour was a small dot in the western sky that Michoud employees dropped their cameras and began to clap and cheer. Many in the crowd grew nostalgic as they described the flyover. "She is such a beautiful machine," said Michoud employee Rachel Ainsworth, "For so many years, Endeavour lifted our astronauts and International Space Station hardware into space. Now, her new mission is to lift the hearts and minds of generations of museum visitors toward the stars."

After departing Michoud, the flight continued west along the south shore of Lake Ponchartrain, offering a good view to many residents of New Orleans, Jefferson and St. Charles parish residents. Endeavour overnighted in Houston, Texas, before finally touching down at Los Angeles International Airport, where the orbiter will be removed from its carrier and paraded through the city streets on its way to the California Science Center.

Endeavour will be displayed in vertical launch configuration with replicas of an external tank and solid rocket boosters.

Scheuermann named MSFC Director

On Sept. 25, Patrick Scheuermann was named director of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville. Beginning in August 2005, Scheuermann served as Michoud's chief operating officer for two years, and led Michoud's post-Katrina recovery efforts in 2005.



ET-94

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"It's a historic moment and the lift team performed flawlessly," said Robert Champion, NASA deputy director of Michoud. "This is the last external tank to leave our VAB, and while it marks the final critical lift of external tanks at the facility, it clears the way for the facility modifications needed to build the Space Launch System rocket."

Michoud's VAB stands 210 feet high and served both the Apollo and Shuttle Programs. Construction crews are scheduled to begin modifying the facility in late September to install new tools for manufacture of the Core Stage booster of the Space Launch System.

ET-94, a lightweight version of the external tank, measures approximately 154 feet long and 27.5 feet in diameter. Empty, ET-94 weighs about 69,000 pounds; once loaded with cryogenic fuel and oxidizer, it tips the scales at about 1.6 million pounds. The external tank served as the structural backbone of the space shuttle and was designed to absorb and distribute more than 7 million pounds of thrust generated at launch. It also fed liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen to the Space Shuttle Main Engines mounted on the shuttle orbiter.

After the Space Shuttle Columbia accident in 2003, ET-94 was designated a test article for the program in order to validate processes and procedures prior to performing work on a flight article. ET-94 was a vital part of NASA's ability to return to flight and remains a testament to the ingenuity and can-do spirit of the External Tank Team.

ET-94 is being kept in Building 103 and monitored to preserve it for future testing or display.

NFC Help Desk



Participating in the NFC Consolidation Help Desk ribbon cutting event Sept. 24 are, from left to right, ITSD Director Gilbert Kawk; NFC Director John White; GESD Director Randy Speed; GESD Associate Director Dawn Hughes Morris; Chief Personnel Processing team members Michael Campbell and Diedre Charlot; and NFC Associate Director Calvin Turner.

Letters from Leadership

I'd like to begin by welcoming Patrick Scheuermann as he returns to Marshall as Center Director. As many of you will recall, he led Michoud as chief operating officer during our Katrina recovery, and I know how excited he is to be leading our team once again as Center Director. He will continue to be a wonderful champion of this facility.

September has been a busy month for Michoud and we are beginning to see some visible changes to our plant. Shuttle Transition and Retirement property excessing efforts are in full swing and our facility's focus is being centered on SLS facility modification and construction work. Our facility's tooling requirements continue to be refined and some of the modification work has already begun.

With many construction projects beginning in October, for everyone's safety I'd like to ask all Michoud employees to respect the various construction sites and identified restricted areas. Please keep away from them unless you are authorized to enter as part of your duties.

We need to remain safe and vigilant as major changes are instituted around the facility. Keep in mind that Michoud employees can go to the facility tool crib in the south mezzanine of building 103 to check out any personal protective equipment that allows you to safely do your job. Remember, there is always an accident-free/injury free way to perform your tasks. Let's all be safety-conscious and look out for each other as we prep this facility for the SLS program.

I'd like to thank the entire team who participated in the successful laydown of ET-94. The planning, preparation and attention to detail that went into the move allowed the operation to be completed safely and without incident. Now that ET-94 is out of Cell A, SLS tooling modification work in Building 110 can begin in earnest.

I hope that everyone was able to go out and view Endeavour as she passed over our facility. Her final flight was a magnificent tribute to all who supported the External Tank Program. As she flew over, it gave me great pride to know that our facility made a mighty contribution to NASA's human space exploration achievements. I look forward with great anticipation as the SLS Program allows us to push out into deep space and eventually enable an astronaut to set foot on a near-Earth asteroid and eventually Mars. Please remember to stay safe as we reach for the stars!

- Roy Malone,
Director of Michoud Assembly Facility

October is Fire Safety Month

Now is the perfect time to remind everyone about fire safety, especially fire extinguisher safety. Know where fire extinguishers are located at home and work and the types of fires for which each extinguisher should be used. There are extinguishers for paper or wood fires, electrical fires, chemical fire and metal fires. Remember, never use an extinguisher without the proper training. Many people are injured and can actually make the situation worse if the wrong extinguisher is used.

In the event of a fire or other emergency, call 911 from your desk phone or dial 504-257-2672 from your cell phone. The Michoud Fire Department is staffed by New

Orleans Fire Department (NOFD) Engine 45, which responds to all calls for fire and medical assistance.

Be mindful about the nearest emergency exit and fire extinguishers as you move about the facility. The Michoud Fire Department inspects fire extinguishers semi-annually per the NFPA requirements. If you notice that an extinguisher tag has expired, has been removed or appears damaged, call the Michoud Help Desk at 257-HELP (4357), and press option 4.

Over the next 12 months, the Michoud Fire Department and NOFD Fire Prevention Services will evaluate all Michoud facilities for fire loading and occupancy lev-

els to assure we aren't inadvertently creating hazards. The team will evaluate the types, number and location of fire extinguishers and will implement corrective actions to place the appropriate additional extinguishers in the correct locations to minimize any fire-suppression hazards they find.

If you or your department would like to receive fire extinguisher training, please call the Michoud Fire Department at 504-257-5515. They can also arrange for a NOFD Fire Prevention Inspector to talk with your group about fire safety in the workplace or at home. Let's make October and every month a fire safety month – Learn Not To Burn.

Michoud Teams Honored for Service



Left photo: Byron Mercier, Elmer Washington, Cynthia Spraul, Stephen Turner, Malcolm Wood, Derek Woods and Anthony Hardy pose with the NASA Group Achievement Award given for the team's performance during the New Orleans Fire Department Transition. Right photo: (first row) Corey Dillard, Keith Campo, Chris Koch, Ed Rocha, Rob Gravolet, Terry Fitzgerald, Edward Wright, Blaise Guzzardo, Scott Dennis, Eddie Hansen, Brian Faucheux, Mark Hazard, Warren Braselman, Deborah Gaudin, (second row) Juan Velasquez, Sam Oliphant, Leo Williams, Gerald Pitalo, Kevin McKennie, James Jones, Jason Constantine, Barry Patterson, Terry Stafford, Teddy Mize, John Tonglet and Dave Turnage pose with a NASA Group Achievement Award given for the team's performance during the Deep Water Horizon investigation support efforts. Congratulations to both teams for receiving these prestigious awards from NASA.

MSFOC Safety Stand Down

Jacobs Technology and all MSFOC Employees will have a Safety Stand Down on Oct. 17 from 1-2:30 p.m. It is mandatory for all MSFOC employees, but all Michoud tenants are welcome to attend. The Stand Down will feature guest speaker Chris Loomis, a four-time Guinness World Record-holder and former marine sniper.



SLS Industry Day October 24, 2012

Michoud will hold an Industry Day Oct. 24 for contractors and small businesses interested in becoming a supplier for the Space Launch System program. The event will run from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CDT. For more information or to register, please visit: <http://slsindustrydayatmaf.blogspot.com/>



Safety & Health Fair

**November 7th,
10:00am - 2:00pm
Bldg. 351 East**

Open to ALL Tenants

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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